

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 EA-06 PA-01

PRS-01 /069 W

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R 241200Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 149

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9959

DEPT PASS A.I.D.

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJ: TITLE II CARE WHEAT; SS NEGO MEMY; PRG REQUEST

REF: NEW DEL

HI 7115 AND EARLIER

SUMMARY: THE GOI HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE PRG IN HANOI TO EFFECT THE "RETURN" OF CERTAIN WHEAT PURCHASED BY THE GVN UNDER A TITLE I SALES AGREEMENT, WHICH WHEAT HAS SINCE BEEN DIVERTED TO THE INDIA TITLE II PROGRAM. THUS FAR, INTERNALLY, THE GOI POSITION APPEARS TO BE THAT THIS REQUEST CANNOT BE HONORED AS THE WHEAT IS ALREADY BEING USED HERE. WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY THE GOI ON THIS MATTER AND PLAN NO APPROACH OF OUR OWN.

ACTION REQUESTED: NONE. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND: IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, WE WERE INFORMED BY AID/W THAT ABOUT 14,000 M.T. OF WHEAT, CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIGNED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM PUR-

SUANT TO A TITLE I SALES AGREEMENT AND EN ROUTE TO SAIGON, WAS BEING DIVERTED TO BOMBAY FOR USE IN THE CARE TITLE II PROGRAM HERE. FRESH DOCUMENTATION (A NEW BILL OF LADING SHOWING CARE/INDIA AS CONSIGNEE) WAS FORTHCOMING AND THE SHIP DOCKED AND OFFLOADED IN BOMBAY IN LATE MAY WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE WHEAT WAS PROMPTLY THEREAFTER PUT TO USE. (FYI: PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARE AND THE FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA, FCI MERGED THIS WHEAT WITH ITS OWN STOCKS FOR ISSUE TO RATION SHOPS; CARE IN TURN DRAWS DOWN ON FCI STOCKS AS THE WHEAT IS ACTUALLY NEEDED IN THE CARE PROGRAM.)

2. CARE'S BOMBAY OFFICE INFORMED US ON JULY 24 THAT THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM HAS REQUESTED THAT THE CARGO OFFLOADED IN INDIA FROM THE NEGOMAY BE SENT TO HANOI. THIS INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN A CABLE (WHICH WAS SHOWN TO A CARE EMPLOYEE) FROM THE GOI MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TO THE BOMBAY PORT TRUST (BPT), THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS: THE INDIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT HANOI WAS INFORMED BY A PRG SPOKESMAN (DATE NOT SPECIFIED) THAT THE SS NEGOMAY WAS DIVERTED TO INDIA FOR REFUELING (SIC) AT THE END OF MAY AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT 14,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 2037 TONS OF GENERAL CARGO MEANT FOR VIETNAM WAS DISCHARGED AT AN INDIAN PORT. THE PRG SPOKESMAN REQUESTED THAT THE CARGO BE SHIPPED BACK TO HANOI: ALL HANDLING AND DEMURRAGE CHARGES INCURRED ON THESE SHIPMENTS WOULD BE REIMBURSED BY THE HANOI GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENTS: REFERENCES TO HANOI AS THE REQUESTED NEW DESTINATION OF SHIPMENT AND PROPOSED PAYMENT OF CHARGES BY THE HANOI GOVERNMENT ARE SURPRISING: WE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SAIGON AND THE PRG MORE LOGICAL. FURTHER, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT "GENERAL CARGO" MIGHT REFER TO - WHAT IT WAS, TO WHOM CONSIGNED, WHETHER OFFLOADED AT BOMBAY, ETC. - AND NO WAY OF FINDING OUT
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IN COUNTRY; WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO EXPLORE THIS.
END COMMENTS.

4. CARE FURTHER INFORMS US THAT THE BPT FORWARDED THE CABLE TO FCI REQUESTING AN ANSWER AND THAT FCI STATED THAT SINCE THE NEGOMAY WHEAT WAS MERGED WITH ITS OWN STOCKS (CARE/FCI ARRANGEMENT REFERENCED PARA ONE ABOVE) AND SINCE THIS WHEAT HAD ALREADY BEEN

ISSUED TO RATION SHOPS, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO
COMPLY WITH THE EQUEST.

5. THE FOREGOING IS MERELY FOR STATE/AID INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY THE GOI AND CERTAINLY DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE ISSUE. HOPEFULLY, THE FCI REFUSAL WILL STAND AND THE MATTER WILL BE CLOSED. WE WILL, OF COURSE, ADVISE FURTHER, AND SEEK INSTRUCTIONS AS APPROPRIATE, SHOULD EVENTS HERE WARRANT.
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